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Agenda item 7 (c)
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gert Rosenthal (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics,[1]

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

Welcoming the report presented by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics on the progress achieved so far in fulfilling the Working Group's mandate,[2]

1. *Reiterates* once again the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members and observers of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations shall not prejudice the access of Member States and that it shall not impose an additional financial burden for the use of databases and other systems;

[1] E/2002/78.
[2] See E/2002/78.

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2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources and with its mandate as stated in Council resolution 1995/61, its work of facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and of continuing the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives. In this regard, the Working Group is requested to continue its efforts in order to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. *Supports* the efforts of the Working Group to keep intact the network of national focal points that was established in connection with the year-2000 problem as a vehicle for the diffusion of best practices and lessons learned, in particular for the exchange of information on locally and regionally appropriate solutions and, in this regard, appeals once again to countries and other sources to provide the extrabudgetary resources necessary to maintain the mailing list of the national focal points;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2003 on the action taken to follow up the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.